



What services are available to you?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

So graduation is almost here. Are you excited? Are you going to any graduation parties?

TEEN MOM:

No. I lost my social life when I got pregnant.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

You've shown great strength as a young mother this year. I'm proud of all you accomplished. I know you've sacrificed for your son.

TEEN MOM:

Like I can't sacrifice any more. I'm about to break down.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Why?

TEEN MOM:

I'm this close to not going to college.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

But you got into a great school. The scholarship you were awarded are amazing. What happened?

TEEN MOM:

I'm spread too thin. I'm about to lose my scholarship if I miss another class. It's not like I'm playing hooky, I just have other responsibilities.

TEEN MOM (V.O.):

The only time I've been late or even missed a class was because of a baby-sitter falling through.

No it's not a big deal. It's just, my sitter just fell through. Grandma? Hi. What are you doing today? Cindy. Hey. What are you doing? Hi Candace. I need a babysitter. You're working? Well when do you get off? Do you think you can get off by around... no that's fine. You can't? Okay, well. Yep, talk to you later. Bye. What am I gonna do with you today?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Well, I can visit with your teachers and see what we need to do to help you finish.

TEEN MOM:

Okay.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

What about your job? Maybe you could work less hours to focus on school.

TEEN MOM:

I can't do that.

I've been late for work a few times too. If I miss any more I'll lose my job.

If one sitter falls through I have to stay at home with my son.

He's still not in day care. I can't afford it. Between the support I have with my family and friends I'm barely making it work. But if I go to college, there won't be anyone to help.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

That's not always the case. Many colleges offer daycare for students who have children. Other services may include single parent dorms or family housing if both parents are married and attending school.

TEEN MOM:

Ok. But what about food? My mom cooks for my son and me whenever I work late.

MOM:

A lot of people come in tonight?

TEEN MOM:

Yeah, it was pretty busy and then it just kind of died, so it made the night just kind of drag on and on.

When will I have time to cook at college?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

You can apply for cafeteria and campus meal plans. They are often covered by financial aid, scholarships or loans.

TEEN MOM:

Leaving my parent's house is gonna be such a huge change. I'm scared it's all gonna be too much.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Student support services offered at many of the colleges help students with all kinds of extra pressures and challenges. These services will help you throughout college so you're not alone.

TEEN MOM:

I'm sure but I can't afford to pay for a bunch of help.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Student support services are usually free to students. Would you be interested in any class tutoring?

TEEN MOM:

Oh yeah. Especially if I miss some classes.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Many colleges offer free tutoring.

TEEN MOM:

How am I supposed to keep straight what support services are at my college?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Once you're enrolled, there will be an orientation session that will introduce campus and student related services. You can ask all these questions in the application process and see the facilities and programs that are offered when you tour the campus.

Sometimes the orientation may be online or a face-to-face session will be scheduled. Orientation is often a requirement for incoming freshman.

Many campus offices and programs will be introduced during the tour to show students where to go if they need assistance.

These offices assist students with support services such as: advising, counseling, career services, testing services, U.S. Military and veteran services, disability services, athletics and wellness, cafeteria and meal plans, security, transportation, multicultural programs, American Indian programs, student clubs, athletics, tutoring and possibly many others.

TEEN MOM:

So I wanted to invite you to my graduation party.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):
Graduation party?

TEEN MOM:

Yeah. Those student support services really helped me. Everything is lined up for next fall. Once I stopped worrying about college I had a little free time to put a party together.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):
That's great. I'm glad you never gave up.

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